

July 9, 2004

SCOPING NOTICE
West Flank (Wild Bunch) 3D Geophysical Project

Dear Reader:

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and Veritas DGC Land, Inc. (Veritas) have filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Geophysical Operations with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office, for a geophysical project on public lands within Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The proposed project is located in multiple Sections within Townships 18, 19, 20, and 21 North, Ranges 104, 105, and 106 West, 6th Principal Meridian. The attached document serves as notice of the beginning of the environmental analysis process to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. If you are interested in participating in the process and have concerns, issues, or alternatives you would like to see addressed, please respond with your written comments by **August 9, 2004**.

Send written comments to:

Address: Shelly Devoss
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov
(Please reference West Flank 3D Project in the subject field)

Written comments in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Rock Springs Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. - 4:30p.m.) Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) after the comment period closes. These comments may be published as part of the environmental process although individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. You have been included in this mailing because you previously indicated interest in receiving information on actions of this type. Absence of response in this matter will remove you from further communications regarding this project.

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact Shelly Devoss at 307-352-0213.

Sincerely,

/S/ Michael R. Holbert

Mike Holbert
Field Manager

Attachment

Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office

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West Flank (Wild Bunch) 3D Geophysical Project

Description of Project

Cypress Consulting, on behalf of Anadarko Petroleum Company and Veritas DGC Land, Inc. (Veritas), has filed a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Conduct Geophysical Operations with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rock Springs Field Office.

The proposed project is located outside the town of Green River easterly to approximately five miles east of Reliance. The project area extends from approximately two miles south of interstate I-80 northerly to 14 mile hill. The project would encompass about 81 square miles of federal land, about four square miles of state land, and approximately 139 square miles of privately owned land within T18-21N, R104-106W (see attached map). Those portions of the project occurring on state land are not subject to BLM authorization and would be permitted separately by Cypress Consulting. The project would be separated into two phases, with approximately half of the project area worked in 2004, and the remaining portion in 2005.

A helicopter and ATVs would be used to deploy recording equipment to predetermined locations on the receiver lines. The receiver station interval would be 220 feet with lines 1796 feet apart. The source station intervals will be 311 feet, with source lines 1796 feet apart.

The proposed project would use buggy mounted vibrators as an energy source where terrain allows. They run on all terrain low ground pressure tires to minimize surface impact (a PSI of around nine pounds). Buggy drills and heli-portable drills would be used to fill in data where needed on steep slopes or soft ground. All shot holes would be plugged according to Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission standards. Phase one of the project is scheduled to take about two months during the fall of 2004.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

Resource Management Plan- The document that directs management of BLM administered lands within the analysis area is the Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP, August 8, 1997). The objective for management of geophysical exploration is to provide opportunity for exploration of mineral resources and collection of geophysical data, while protecting resource values.

Use Authorization- An approved Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Operations is subject to the Terms and Conditions for a Notice of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Exploration. Other conditions of approval to protect important resources may be added to the authorization if analysis proves such measures would further reduce environmental impact.

National Environmental Policy Act

On reviewing the proposal from Veritas, the BLM has determined that an environmental analysis is required to determine whether impacts from the Proposed Action would be considered significant. Additionally, NEPA requires that a No Action alternative be considered in all environmental documents. This will allow a comparison of the economic and environmental consequences of all alternatives. Under the No Action alternative, geophysical operations would not occur in the project area.

Identified Resource Management Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

The following issues and concerns have been identified by the BLM to date. It is not meant to be an all-inclusive list, but rather a starting point for public input and a means of identifying the resource disciplines needed to conduct the analysis.

- Raptor nesting habitat
- Greater sage-grouse habitat
- Big game winter range
- Steep slopes
- Riparian areas
- Cultural resources including the Overland Trail
- Native American religious sites
- Abandoned mines
- Residential areas
- Underground utilities and other facilities
- Road crossings
- Weeds
- Hunting areas and other recreation
- Grazing
- City expansion areas

Timing Needs or Requirements

Public input is important in establishing the level and scope of the analysis. The public is encouraged to participate in the environmental analysis process to help identify the level of analysis needed, alternatives to the proposed action, other issues or concerns that should be analyzed, mitigative opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help

ensure the completeness of the analysis process. There will be two public meetings regarding this project held at the BLM, Rock Springs Field Office on July 22, 2004 at 1:00-3:30 PM and 6:00-8:30 PM.

Please submit your comments by August 8, 2004. Written comments should be mailed to:

Address: Shelly Devoss
Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191 North
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Email: rock_springs_wymail@blm.gov
(Please reference West Flank 3D Project in the subject line.)

Public Participation

The following individuals and organizations will receive a copy of this scoping statement:

Government offices

Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office (910,912,920,930)
Office of the Governor
U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wyoming State Clearinghouse
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (Land, Air, and Water)
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Cheyenne, Green River)
Office of State Lands and Investments
Wyoming State Planning Office
Wyoming State Geological Survey
Wyoming State Engineer
Wyoming Department of Revenue
Wyoming Water Development Commission
Bureau of Reclamation

Elected and Other Officials

Mayors of Rock Springs, Green River
State Senators: Rae Lynn Job, Tex Boggs, Larry Caller
State Representatives: Fred Parady, Mick Owen
Sweetwater County Commissioners
Sweetwater County Planner
Sweetwater County Libraries, Green River, Rock Springs
U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Cubin, Bonnie Cannon, Representative
U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, Lyn Shanaghy, Representative

U.S. Senator Craig Thomas, Pati Smith, Representative

Public Land Users and User Groups

Grazing permittees for the Salt Wells, Mellor Mountain, and Vermillion Creek Allotments

Affected oil and gas lessees

Affected rights-of-way holders

People for the West

Petroleum Association of Wyoming

Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States

Native American Tribes: Eastern Shoshone, Northern Ute, Northern Arapaho, Shoshone-Bannock

Sierra Club, Northern Plains Representative

Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association

Wilderness Society

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

National Wildlife Federation

Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists

Wyoming Outdoor Council

Wyoming Public Lands Council

Wyoming Chapter of the Sierra Club

Environmental Defense Fund

Biodiversity Conservation Alliance

Newspapers

Rock Springs Daily Rocket-Miner

Casper Star-Tribune

Green River Star

Radio Stations

KQSW/KRKK. Rock Springs

KMKX - Rock Springs

KUGR - Green River

KYCS - Rock Springs

Television Stations

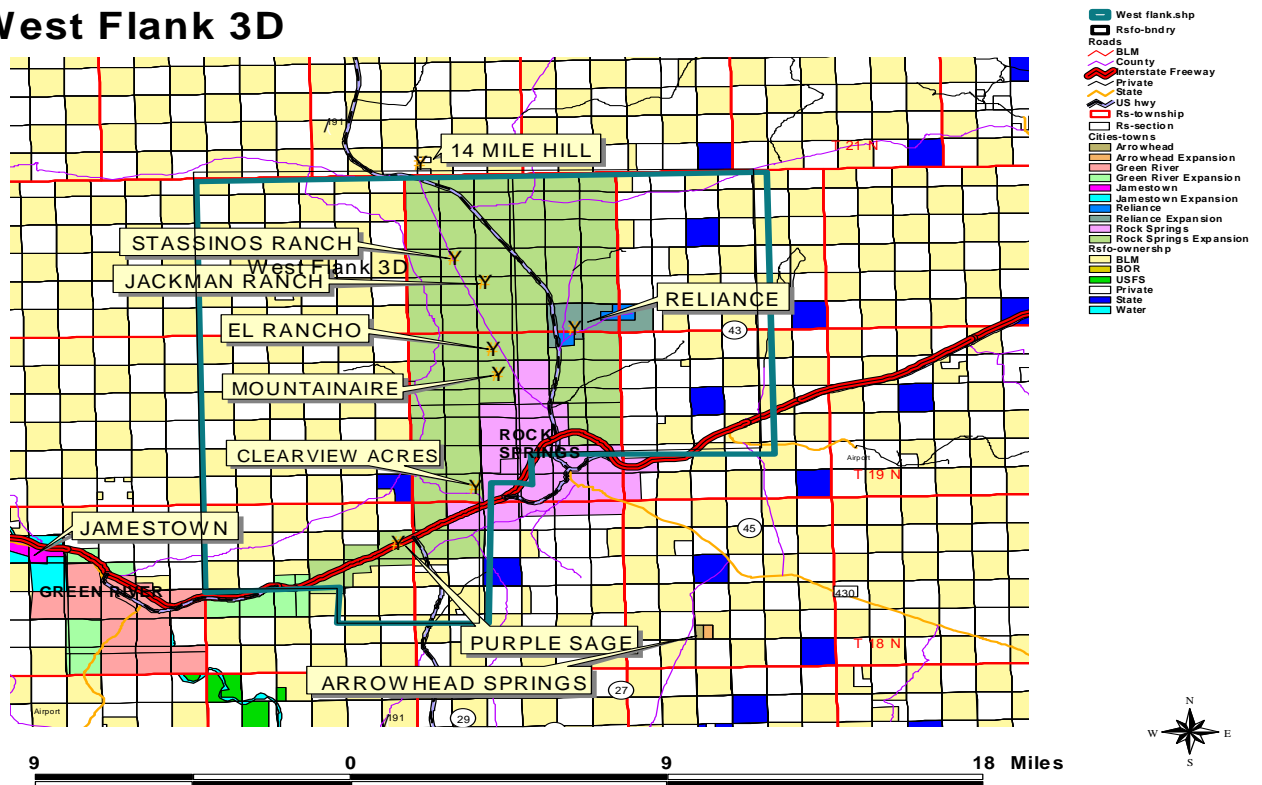
KTWO-TV - Casper

KCWY-TV - Casper

KFNB-TV - Casper

KGWC-TV - Casper

West Flank 3D



This map is for informational purposes only. Information presented here can not be guaranteed by the BLM.